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The Health of the Rural District of Luton

1966



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Mr. Edin c.303.

21 OCT 1969

63526 DUNSTABLE

MONTPELIER HOUSE,
DUNSTABLE.

To the Chairman, and Councillors of the
Rural District of Luton.

31st August, 1967

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Health Report for 1966.

The population showed an overall increase of 630 according to the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for mid 1966.

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year. No cases of poliomyelitis were notified and no cases of diphtheria.

Measles is now the commonest infectious disease of childhood. Although it rarely causes death it is responsible for much school absence and in certain cases is followed by long-lasting complications. Vaccination against measles has at last become possible and it appears that after further tests measles vaccination will become a routine part of the childhood immunisation and vaccination programme.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. L. G. Hill, Chief Public Health Inspector for his assistance and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. A. A. Pargeter,
Medical Officer of Health.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S OF HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 1966

Statistics and Social Conditions

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of District (in acres)	46,204
Population: Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1966	34,950
Number of inhabited houses - according to Rate Books	10,442
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1966	£1,404,929
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March, 1966	£5,305
Number of new houses erected during year ended 31st December, 1966 : (a) Council	31
..... (b) Private	180

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>	
				<u>Crude</u>	<u>Corrected</u>
Total	357	360	727	20.8	17.3
Legitimate	342	350	692		
Illegitimate	15	20	35		

<u>Still Births</u>				<u>Rate per 1,000</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total</u>
				<u>population</u>	<u>Live and Still Births</u>
Total	3	5	8	0.2	10.8
Legitimate	3	5	8		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

Total Live and Still Births

Total	360	375	735
Legitimate	345	355	700
Illegitimate	15	20	35

Infant Deaths (under one year of age)

				<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>
				<u>Legitimate</u> <u>Illegitimate</u>
Total	7	3	10	<u>Total</u> 13.8
Legitimate	7	3	10	13.8
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

Total	7	2	9	12.4	12.4	-
Legitimate	7	2	9			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>
<u>Infant Deaths (under 1 week of age)</u>						
Total	6	1	7	9.6	9.6	-
Legitimate	6	1	7			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			

Still Births and Deaths under 1 week of age

Still Births	8
Deaths	7
Total	15

Combined rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births = 20.4.

Illegitimate Live Births = 4.8% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths = Nil.

<u>Deaths.</u> Male	167
Female	<u>121</u>
Total	<u>288</u>

<u>Death Rates per 1,000 population</u>	All causes: Crude	8.2
	Adjusted	11.7
	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-
	Whooping Cough	-
	Diphtheria	-
	Tuberculosis003
	Influenza003
	Smallpox	-
	Acute Poliomyelitis	-
	Pneumonia5
	All causes under 1 year of age3

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	4	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	-	13
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	7	22
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	25	29	54
18. Coronary disease, angina	38	26	64
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
20. Other heart disease	12	10	22
21. Other circulatory disease	3	5	8
22. Influenza	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia	12	7	19
24. Bronchitis	16	3	19
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	4	2	6
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	10	23
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
34. All other accidents	2	4	6
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
37. All causes	167	121	288

Cancer of the stomach caused 6 deaths, compared with 4 last year, and cancer of the lung (bronchus) caused thirteen deaths compared with 12 in the previous year.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths below 55 years of age	33	17	50
Deaths over 75 years of age	58	58	116

POPULATION

The population, as estimated by the Registrar-General, for 1966 was 34,950 and as will be seen from the undermentioned table, there has been a total increase of 11,450 in the last ten years.

Population 1957 - 1966

Year	Population	Increase or decrease over previous year	Natural Increase
1957	23,500	970	12.2
1958	24,570	1,070	10.2
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9
1962	41,090	3,550	13.9
1963	42,570	1,480	8.5
1964	33,580	8,990 (decrease)	11.7
1965	34,320	740	8.5
1966	34,950	630	5.6

'Natural Increase' shows the difference between the birth and death rates.

Birth Rate

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar-General supplies a comparability factor to all areas so that an adjusted birth rate can be made. The 'factor' for this district is 0.83.

The birth rate for 1966 was 17.3 after multiplying the 'crude birth rate' of 20.8 by the 'comparability factor'.

The total number of live births was 727.

Still Births

The number of still births was 8 and the still birth rate 0.2 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate for 1,000 total live and still births was 10.8.

Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 8.2, as compared with 7.1 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.42, by which a corrected death rate of 11.7 is obtained.

Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 10, of which 7 were male and 3 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 13.8 per 1,000 births over the year. 2 infant deaths were due to prematurity, 3 to heart disease, 2 to post anoxic pneumonia, 1 to cardiac failure, 1 to pulmonary haemorrhage, and 1 to placental insufficiency.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month of age, was 9, corresponding to a rate of 12.4 per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year:-

	Total cases notified	Rate per 1,000 population
Scarlet Fever	7	0.2
Whooping Cough	53	1.5
Measles	522	14.9
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Dysentery	19	0.5
Food Poisoning	1	0.02
Erysipelas	1	0.02
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0.07
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	0.07

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1957-1966

Year	Estimated Population	LIVE BIRTHS		STILL BIRTHS		DEATHS		INFANT DEATHS				MATERNAL DEATHS			
		No	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	No	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	No	Rate Per 1,000 Estimated Population	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks To 12 Months	Total	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births	Sepsis	Other	Total	Rate Per 1,000 Total Births
1957	23,500	495	21.1	9	17.9	209	8.9	8	3	11	22.2	-	-	-	-
1958	24,570	537	20.8	7	12.9	220	10.6	9	2	11	20.2	-	-	-	-
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7	-	-	-	-
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	-	2	2	2.4
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6	-	-	-	-
1962	41,090	1,149	20.7	18	15.4	270	9.8	20	9	29	25.2	-	-	-	-
1963	42,570	1,050	19.5	21	15.0	313	11.0	12	6	18	16.8	-	-	-	-
1964	33,580	902	22.2	6	6.6	236	10.5	8	2	10	11.1	-	1	1	1.1
1965	34,320	777	18.8	14	17.7	245	10.15	8	6	14	18.0	-	-	-	-
1966	34,950	727	17.3	8	10.8	288	11.7	9	1	10	13.8	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-
25 - 44 years	1	2	-	1
45 - 64 years	1	-	-	-
65 years and over	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	3	2	-	1

Cases notified
during:-

					<u>Total</u>
1961	9	4	-	1	14
1962	8	2	1	-	11
1963	4	1	-	2	7
1964	4	4	1	2	11
1965	2	2	-	1	5
1966	3	2	-	1	6

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

Persons in need of care and attention

This section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take steps for compulsory removal of any persons during the year.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S
ANNUAL REPORT 1966

WATER SUPPLY

Public Mains Water

Eighty-five samples from dwelling houses, schools etc., served by a mains water supply have been obtained for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The examinations indicated that the water was of an "excellent" standard of purity in all but two samples. In each case the source of pollution was investigated and removed.

Private Water Supplies

There are still a few dwellings in the district remote from the public mains which draw their water from wells or boreholes. Thirty samples were taken and where bacteriological examination indicated that the water was suspect, owners were advised on removing the pollution and chemically treating the supply.

Five houses formerly drawing water from a shallow well were connected to the mains water supply under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts 1944 - 61.

Discolouration of Water

During the year complaints were received from residents in the Parishes of Streatley, Barton and Billington. The Water Board concerned, on having their attention drawn to the circumstances, flushed the mains and removed the iron oxide sediment.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

In my Annual Reports of 1955 and 1956 reference was made to the fact that many of the villages in the rural district had to tolerate primitive drainage conditions which in the second half of the 20th century were thought to be intolerable. It was anticipated that during the ensuing 10 years all the villages in the rural district would have been sewered.

Whereas it must be recognised that public sewers have been laid in several parishes during this period, the continued absence of this Public Health amenity in many parishes is being felt acutely, particularly in villages where housing development continues.

It is to be regretted that no public sewer was installed during the year apart from moderate extensions to existing sewers, but at the time of preparing this report it appeared that during the latter half of 1967 works on the main drainage scheme incorporating the villages of Eaton Bray, Totternhoe, Stanbridge, Tilsworth will have been started. The Hockliffe main drainage scheme should also be well under way during 1967.

In the meantime, the pressures relating to the need for the installation of sewers in the parishes of Studham and Streatley are being accelerated.

Cesspool Emptying

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

Although progress has been made regarding the Council's Main Drainage Schemes, starting dates are still awaited and no relief has been given to this service during the past year.

Infilling development controlled by the Green Belt policy of planning is taking place and this is adding to the burden of the cesspool emptying service in the District.

The difficulty of finding suitable sites for disposal still remains and in the southern and western parts of the district the effluent is dealt with by land treatment.

Rivers, Streams, Ponds, Ditches & Watercourses

The pollution of ditches and watercourses has given rise to numerous complaints during the year. Cleansing and other abatement measures have been taken but insanitary conditions are bound to recur where crude drainage, the effluent from insufficient septic tanks and the overflow from cesspools and settlement tanks drain therein. Nothing less than the provision of main drainage in the parishes where this form of pollution occurs will prevent these conditions recurring.

Closet Accommodation

The conversion of earth and pail closets into water closets was completed in the villages of Sundon and Chalton during the year, apart from those dwellings which are the subject of Demolition Orders. The Council's own houses are being modernized progressively and the availability of main drainage is an important factor in expediting these conversions and improvements.

REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

The Task Incentive Bonus Scheme has continued to work satisfactorily and a regular weekly collection service in all areas has been maintained.

With the opening of the new Shopping Centre at Houghton Regis, comprising 26 shops, trade refuse collection has increased and this is dealt with in conjunction with the service afforded to the Motorway Service Area.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

ANIMALS

Animal Boarding Establishments	11
Pet Shops	3
Riding Stables	9

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

163

FACTORIES

Mechanical	18
Non-Mechanical	2

FOOD

Bakehouses	2
Catering Premises	53
Food Complaints & Investigations	13
Licensed Premises and Clubs	13
Meat Inspection	259
Mobile Shops	28
Retail Food Shops	40
Ice-Cream	9
Food Hygiene Regulations	5

HEALTH EDUCATION

3

HOUSING

303

Houses Inspected	156
Reinspections	71
Other Visits	

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigations	55
Disinfections	8
Swabs & Specimens	181

NUISANCES

Premises	127
Animals	31
Disinfestations	1
Noise Abatement	71
Rodent Control	75
Pests	31
Miscellaneous Visits	85

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

General Inspections	73
Reinspections	143
Accident Investigations	16

PETROLEUM

Routine Inspections	76
New Installations	38

SAMPLING

Ice-Cream	7
Milk	9
Water	85

SANITATION

Ditches and Watercourses	121
Refuse Accumulations etc.	167
Sewerage and Drainage	197
Water Supply	88

SPECIAL PREMISES

Caravans	273
Farms (Welfare Provisions)	16
Halls	2
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	7
Swimming Pools	2

WELFARE

Welfare	17
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Abatement of Nuisances

One hundred nuisances were abated as a result of informal action. These vary considerably in nature, but the usual nuisances dealt with include disrepair and defects to dwellings and other premises, defective drainage and other sanitary accommodation, polluted ditches, insanitary disposal of waste and rubbish, improper keeping of animals, garden flooding and mud or foreign matter on roadways.

The Litter Act 1958

The amount of waste, rubbish, car wrecks and similar material deposited along greenways, bridleways, roadside verges and in ditches appeared to increase during the year. Most of this worthless material is "dumped" overnight. With the increasing number of itinerant scrap metal dealers stationed within the district it is natural to relate these two factors to each other, but occasionally it is evident that householders resort to this irresponsible practice. Clues sorted from such rubbish are passed to the local police officer, but proving conclusively that particular persons have actually deposited the rubbish is extremely difficult.

The Council's Engineer and Surveyor, co-operating with the County Highways Surveyor, has at regular intervals removed this waste material.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Complaints with respect to various types and sources of noise were received including:-

- Barking Guard Dogs.
- Precipitator "Rappers" at the Houghton Regis Cement Works.
- Panel and Metal Beating.
- Processes at 2 small factories.
- Exhaust ventilators in poultry houses, batteries, etc.

This type of noise hardly registers on the sound meter but its persistence disturbs the peace of the countryside, especially when elderly people sit in the quiet of their gardens on a summer afternoon. Egg producers, poultry keepers etc. are encouraged to

install such ventilators as are provided with adequate sound insulation and muffling devices. The Animal Husbandry division of the Ministry of Agriculture are also offering advice in this connection.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

(Emission of Dust)

The extension to the Associated Portland Cement Company's works at Houghton Regis began to operate in June and during the remainder of the year recurring teething troubles resulted in numerous complaints being made by residents living to the north-east and east of the works.

A deposit gauge was placed in the Manor Park area of Houghton Regis as from the 1st April and the average monthly deposit in tons per square mile was 52.74. The monthly average for the Manor Park area 1962-1964 was 29.06.

Whereas when the extensions were proposed the Company gave assurances that the nature, size and efficiency of the extensions were such that the dust emitted from the premises would prove to be less than had arisen or been the "fall-out" from the old works, the deposits of dust recorded in the Manor Park area proved that by the end of the year such an assurance had not been fulfilled and, in fact, the dust emitted had almost doubled in quantity.

A deposit gauge was installed in the Dunstable Road area approximately 400 feet from the boundary of the works. This was intended to collect information with respect to low level dust. The monthly average in tons per square mile more than doubled the Manor Park deposit and seemed to prove beyond any doubt that the complaints were justified and conditions were such as constituted a Nuisance. The proportion of undissolved matter was found to be very high and its property to set on surfaces caused a good deal of disquiet and annoyance to householders living in the vicinity. Its effect upon glass houses, conservatories, orchards, vegetable gardens and external decorative repair to dwelling houses was serious.

The District Alkali Inspectors and the works management have been informed of the complaints received and they are regularly acquainted with the Public Analyst's report on deposited matter. The former have spent much of their time in the Houghton Regis area and liaison between the Public Health Department and these Officers of the Ministry is excellent.

Sundon and Chalton

The average monthly deposit in tons per square mile recorded at Sundon showed some improvement, the 1966 figure being 23.30 whereas 26.80 had been recorded in the preceding year. At Chalton an increase in deposited matter was recorded, the figures being 23.58 in 1966 as against 20.53 in 1965. The figures being recorded in these villages still leave something to be desired. It had been anticipated when the precipitators were installed at the Sundon Works in 1961 that the average deposit would have been 20 at Sundon and much less at Chalton.

Cement and Lime Works

There are other establishments in the district but these have not given rise to a Nuisance, apart from the works at Barton where the crushing of chalk periodically produces a heavy dust in the immediate vicinity of the works, which is adjacent to the A6 highway.

Control of Chimney Heights

Section 10 of the Clean Air Act 1956 requires the local authority to reject plans if they consider that the height of new chimneys serving boilers is not sufficient to prevent the flue gases from being prejudicial to health. On seven occasions plans were submitted to the Council where the proposed chimney heights were not sufficient but following discussions with the applicants the plans were amended in every case to show increased chimney heights which were to the Council's satisfaction.

HOUSING ACT 1957

Repairs - Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of houses rendered fit by owner after
informal action by Local Authority 37

Beyond Repair - Individual Unfit Houses

Closing Orders made (Section 17) 7
Demolition Orders made (Section 17) 19
Closing Orders determined (Section 27) 1
Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders
substituted (Section 28) 1
Demolished following formal action 26
Demolished following informal action 11
Closed following informal action 8
Restored etc. (Section 24) 5

Progress Report on Formal Procedure

Demolished 194
Undertakings not to use for human habitation 4
Undertakings to render fit (executed) 31
Closing Orders (vacant) 14
Closing Orders (occupied) 7
Closing Orders (restored) 11
Demolition Orders revoked (Section 24) 22
Substitution of Demolition Orders (Section 26) 4
Undertakings to reconstruct etc. (Section 24),
which have not been executed 5
Houses subject to Demolition Orders (occupied) 25
Houses subject to Demolition Orders (vacant) 38

Note: Some of these cannot be demolished by reason
of the adjoining house, which is also subject
to a Demolition Order, being occupied.

Houses scheduled for consideration by Housing
Committee on 24th April, 1967. 33

Total 388

Informal Procedure

Demolished 136
Undertakings not to use for human habitation 46
Undertakings to render fit (executed) 51
Dwelling houses demolished to make way for other
development or which have become disused through
obsolescence. 8

Total 241

Future Procedure

Houses scheduled for treatment under Section
16/17 etc. Housing Act 1957, between 25th April
1967 and 31st December 1971 approx. 200

Improvement Grants

These are dealt with by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Approximately a half of the improvement grants made are with respect to dwelling houses on which the Public Health Inspectors made the initial approach to the owner of the dwelling.

Thirty-eight grants were made, twenty-one of these resulting from informal action by the Public Health Department.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

The following summary indicates the number of caravan sites and caravans stationed thereon at the end of the year:

1966

Licensed Sites	Permanent		Holiday	
	No. of Sites	No. of Caravans	No. of Sites	No. of Caravans
Holding 1 Caravan	20	20		
2 to 6 Caravans	9	29		
More than 6 but less than 50	9	231	3	105 approx.
More than 50 but less than 100	2	134		
More than 100	2	208		
TOTALS:	42	622	3	105

The holiday sites include Sallowsprings, land at 24 Byslips Road, Studham and the London Gliding Club. In addition to the number of caravans shown above the Council own a site at Hockliffe on which 60 caravans are stationed.

Improvements continue to be carried out on various caravan sites including the provision of improved drainage. The tendency to provide larger caravans which are described as being Mobile Homes has had the effect of reducing the demand upon the water closet and laundry accommodation provided for use in general for persons residing on the sites.

The provision of electricity to a caravan site has also resulted in caravan users preferring to attend to their laundry needs within the caravan rather than using shared facilities.

There are a number of caravans stationed in various parts of the district which are exempt from licensing, these include:-

- (i) Caravans used incidental to the use of dwelling houses (usually members of the same family).
- (ii) Caravans used in certain types of agriculture and forestry.
- (iii) Caravans used on building and engineering sites.
- (iv) A few caravans on sites occupied or approved by exempted organisations.

Gypsies and Other Travellers

Early in the year the rural area in the south east corner of Bedfordshire, which includes several parishes in the district, witnessed a minor invasion by itinerant scrap metal dealers, car breakers, persons employed in tarmacing, casual agricultural workers and tree loppers all of whom resided in caravans. These also included a number of didikais (didicoys) Irish Gypsies and Tinkers amongst whom were furniture dealers, car breakers etc. The caravans are stationed on roadside verges, in bridleways, greenways with what appears to be complete disregard of the rights of other persons who use these rights of way. Most of the caravans seem to have one or more dogs tied thereto and this often has a frightening effect upon local residents and children on holidays. Large quantities of rubbish are left in these places but to identify the person by whose act or default etc. is extremely difficult. The police are informed where reliable information is obtained.

The circumstances under which these people live demands that one or more sites where they can be controlled and provided with reasonable sanitary services should be made available. This is a matter which should receive the consideration of all the authorities concerned, including the Bedfordshire County Council, the adjoining County Borough of Luton, the Bucks & Herts County Councils and the several other rural district councils concerned. The Council's Public Health Committee is pressing for such a conference but it is to be regretted that this was not held during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE

Food Premises in District

Bakehouses and Shops	5
Bakers Shops	1
Butchers	18
Catering Premises	22
Confectioners	22
Fish Shops	4
Greengrocers	10

Grocers/General	66
Licensed Premises	70
Off-License Premises	4
Supermarkets	1
	<hr/>
	223

All the 223 food premises in the district have hand-washing facilities and therefore comply with Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Regulation 19 which requires the fitting of sinks for washing food and equipment is complied with in all the 197 premises to which it applies.

Mobile Shops

Bakers	16
Butchers	6
Fishmongers	2
Grocers	4
Greengrocers	5
Ice Cream	12
Snack Bars	2
	<hr/>
	47

The number of mobile shops has declined over the past three years from 86 in 1963 to the present 47 known to be operating at the present time.

Ice Cream

Three premises were registered to store and sell ice cream bringing the total on the register to 97.

The results of 7 samples of ice cream taken to the local Public Health Laboratory were satisfactory.

Milk

Refrigerated Milk Dispensers

Only 6 of 22 samples of milk which were taken from several refrigerated milk dispensers at a large catering establishment passed the methylene blue test. The number of dispensers has, however, now been reduced from six to two with a corresponding improvement in laboratory results as the staff are now able to give more attention to the proper sterilization of the dispensers.

The installation of new refrigerated milk dispensers in other premises is, however, being discouraged.

Sampling

The results of 2 samples of raw milk and three samples of Pasteurised milk which were taken to the Public Health Laboratory were satisfactory.

Brucella Abortus

No samples of raw milk were taken for the purpose of isolating the organism responsible for this disease.

Unfit Food

8 complaints concerning the condition of food purchased were made to the department by the public. Three were referred to other local authorities.

A letter was sent to two tradesmen who were responsible for the contraventions warning them that should they be involved in any similar incidents the Council would consider legal action. No further action was considered necessary in the remaining three cases.

Training of Food Handlers

A short lecture on food hygiene was given to about 30 people engaged in the food industry.

Licensed Premises

Owing to the government's financial restrictions, plans to modernize several public houses were deferred.

MEAT INSPECTION

One hundred per cent meat inspection is maintained at the two private slaughterhouses in the district, for which the maximum charges permitted by the Regulations are made.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Bovine	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs	Goats
Number killed	259	17	21	2.083	7
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercus bovis.					
Whole carcase condemned	12	3	nil	79	nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	40	4	3	319	nil
% affected with disease	20.1	41.2	14.3	19.1	nil
Tuberculosis	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

Cysticercus bovis:

One case was detected during the year. The affected organs were condemned and the carcase detained under approved cold storage conditions.

Particulars of Meat Found to be Unfit

	Meat (lbs)	Offal (lbs)
Bovine	4432	363
Calves	140	14
Pigs	10	10
Sheep & Lambs	3040	746½
Total	7622	1133½
Tuberculosis	nil	
Other diseases	8755½ lbs.	

RODENT CONTROL

The number of complaints of rodent infestations received by the department was 248.

Rodent Control Report (for 12 months ended 31.12.66)

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
<u>Properties Other Than Sewers</u>		
Total No. of Properties inspected following notification	1921	1
No. infested by		
(i) Rats	205	1
(ii) Mice	12	nil
Total No. of Properties inspected other than after notification	165	12
No. infested by		
(i) Rats	26	nil
(ii) Mice	nil	nil

Summary of Inspections, Treatments etc.

	<u>RATS</u>	<u>MICE</u>
No. of houses surveyed	1821	11
No. of houses treated	181	11
No. of business premises surveyed	188	1
No. of business premises treated	24	1
No. of agricultural premises surveyed	13	-
No. of agricultural premises treated	1	-
No. of sewers surveyed	10	-
No. of sewers treated	8	-
No. of sewage disposal works surveyed	95	-

	<u>RATS</u>	<u>MICE</u>
No. of sewage disposal works treated	9	-
No. of refuse tips surveyed	59	-
No. of refuse tips treated	8	-
Other places surveyed	1	-
Other places treated	1	-

The rodent population appears to have increased during the year as a result of which during the Winter of 1966/67 the Assistant Rodent Officer and the Council's Pupil Public Health Inspector were kept extremely busy. It would not be untrue to state that during the past 4 or 5 years, despite the employment of a full-time rodent operative (now designated as Assistant Rodent Officer), the rats appear to be winning the battle. I have already submitted reasons to the Ministry of Agriculture for the increasing rodent population, these being:-

1. The almost complete absence of liaison between the private pest companies and the local authorities. Prior to the transfer of rodent control functions from the County Agricultural Committees to private pest companies rodent control appeared to be increasingly efficient.

2. The charges for rodent control made by private pest companies have progressively increased and the number of farmers availing themselves of the service proportionately decreased. Farmers formed the opinion that they could use Warfarin efficiently, but our experience has been that it destroys rats in and about buildings, but banks, ditches and sources of infestation remote from the farm buildings tend to be neglected. Early in the year a circular was issued to all farmers in the district advising them on rodent control and this was accompanied by the Ministry's own circular and advisory leaflets. We are grateful for the co-operation received from the Ministry's Officers at the time.

3. Changing trends in farming are a contributory factor. Whereas formerly many rats were trapped during threshing operations this no longer obtains, and present day methods enable rats to take cover in banks and hedges during the various harvesting processes and when the machines have left the field they return "to

get fat on the grain left in the stubble and on any unharvested root crops".

4. Mechanisation on farms has resulted in less labour being available for work on the prevention of infestation and destruction of rats and mice.

5. The increase in the unauthorised and irresponsible dumping of waste material on roadsides and in ditches provides cover for food for rats and thus contributes to the problem.

The introduction of polythene pre-packed ready mixed Warfarin proved successful during the peak period of infestation. This method not only saves time but when used in banks and hedge-grows there is much less loss of efficiency due to deterioration.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Premises		Number on Register	Number of Inspection Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	-	-
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	61	18	3	-
(iii)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	-	-	-
Total		64	20	3	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. In- specter	By H.M. In- specter	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S 7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	2	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in Aug. list required by Sec. 133
Wearing apparel - making etc.	124
Xmas stockings, etc.	10
Lampshades.	1
	135

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

By the end of 1966, only 5 of the one hundred and twenty-five premises registered under the provisions of the Act had not received a general inspection, and those were recently registered premises.

Special attention was paid to the problem of guarding food slicing machines. During the inspection of registered premises, 38 of the 45 machines found, required the provision of additional safety guards. Due to the large number of requests for this equipment, the manufacturers have had difficulty in meeting the demand and as a consequence, only 6 of the 38 machines have been modified.

STATISTICS

Registration of Premises

Twenty-four new premises were registered during the year, making a total of 125 which is only 4 more than 1965.

A copy of the abstract of the Act is provided by the Council to the occupiers of all newly registered premises.

Classification of registered premises

Offices	-	23
Retail shops	-	80
Catering establishments	-	22
		125

Analysis of persons employed

Offices	-	175
Retail Shops	-	355
Catering establishments	-	370
Canteens	-	5
		905

(302 males, 603 females)

Exemptions

No applications were made during the year for exemption under the provisions of Sections 5, 6 or 9 of the Act.

INSPECTIONS

Two hundred and thirty-two visits were made to premises in connection with the Act. This total includes 73 General Inspections.

Contraventions

A summary of the contraventions found is set out below:-

Section 6	Temperature	-	20
	(includes 19 cases where thermometer was not provided)		
7	Ventilation	-	-
8	Lighting	-	-
9	Sanitary conveniences	-	9
10	Washing facilities	-	6
11	Drinking water	-	-
12	Clothing accommodation	-	4
13	Seating facilities	-	3
14	Seats sedentary workers	-	2
15	Eating facilities	-	-
16	Floors, passages, stairs	-	13
17	Fencing exposed parts of machinery	-	27
24	First Aid provisions	-	<u>19</u>
	Total		<u>103</u>

Fifty-eight letters were sent to the owners of the premises concerned requesting them to remedy these contraventions.

Prosecutions

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings in respect of any offences at registered premises.

ACCIDENTS

Number of accidents notified	-	Males	1
	-	Females	<u>15</u>
			<u>16</u>

Number of days lost through accidents -	533
Average number of days lost per accident -	33

Classification of causes

Falls of persons	-	12
Involving catering equipment	-	3
Falling objects	-	1

A total of 9 accidents was investigated. Informal advice was given to the occupiers of the premises concerned in each of these cases.

Falls accounted for 12 of the 16 accidents. Thirteen of the accidents occurred at one large establishment.

One case was referred to the Deputy Superintending Inspector of Factories as the equipment involved in the accident was standard in many other of the company's branches, in other parts of the country.

In two incidents involving women, the initial injury appeared to be slight at first but in both cases thrombosis developed and kept them away from work for a considerable time.

One accident occurred for every 56.2 persons employed in registered premises in 1966 compared with 1 accident for every 48.3 persons employed in 1965. The number of days lost through accidents was 533 in 1966 compared with 259 in 1965, which shows that although the incidence of accidents has decreased, their severity has increased.

First Aid Order - Training of Personnel

The section of the first aid order which requires the presence of a trained first-aiders on premises where more than 150 persons are employed, came into force on the 31st December, 1966.

Although this requirement affected only one of the registered premises in the district, difficulties were foreseen in ensuring that a sufficient number of the employees received the prescribed training because of the arrangement of their working day into shifts which varied from week to week. This department was, however, able to arrange with the local branch of the British Red Cross Society a special First Aid Course at the premises concerned, at a time which was convenient to the employees on both day shifts, eight of whom were successful in gaining the Society's Certificate.

OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE DEPARTMENT

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Eight establishments were licensed during the year. These were inspected in order to ensure that the conditions attached to licences were complied with.

The R.S.P.C.A. Inspector gave invaluable assistance and advised on the welfare of dogs and cats, to which the Act relates.

Infectious Diseases

Most of the cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health were investigated with a view to tracing the source of infection and determining whether or not there was any direct or indirect connection with food supplies. These included cases of Scarlet Fever, Sonnei Dysentery and two cases of food poisoning.

A new branch library was opened in Houghton Regis during the year and as a consequence 74 library books were withdrawn from circulation for disinfection after being used in homes where there had been infectious disease.

National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 48 - Care of Elderly Persons

Reports on two elderly persons were submitted and appropriate informal action resolved the circumstances satisfactorily.

Other Duties

These included the sampling of school and private swimming pools water but the County Education Department assumed complete responsibility for the former before the end of the year.

Reports on Ruinous and Dilapidated Structures under the Public Health Act 1961, Pet Animals Act 1951, Licensing Act 1961, Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, Agriculture (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act 1956, Game Act 1831, Medical Arrangements for Long-Stay Immigrants etc. etc.

New Legislation

This included Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations 1966 and Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts 1928 and 1936

114 inspections were made to the 78 premises licensed to store petroleum spirit. Six new licences were granted and several cancelled.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

I am glad of this opportunity to express my appreciation to my staff for their loyalty and the efficiency with which they have carried out their duties.

Mr. T. C. Oliver - Additional Public Health Inspector

During the year, Mr. Oliver obtained the Diploma of the Royal Society of Health for Smoke Inspectors'. This qualification will prove to be of inestimable value to both the Officer and to the Council having regard to the atmospheric pollution problems in the district.

Mr. Alan Turvey - Student Public Health Inspector

Mr. Turvey completed the second year of the approved course for the Public Health Inspectors' Diploma at the Hertfordshire College of Building, St. Albans, and obtained 'Good' results in the Intermediate Examination.

Mrs. E. Ostapczuk - Secretary

Mrs. Ostapczuk has completed 22 years service with the Council.

Mrs. I. C. Coppard - Part-time Clerk/Shorthand Typist

Mrs. Coppard left at the end of August and her post was filled by Mrs. K. Wakelam.

Mr. E. Todd - Assistant Rodent Officer

During the year Mr. Todd completed 39 years service with the Council nine of which have been on rodent control.

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. G. Hill', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

L. G. Hill,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

